

LETCHWORTH LIBRARY
URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL



Annual Report

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

for the year

1949

including the

REPORT

OF THE CHIEF SANITARY INSPECTOR



PUBLIC HEALTH STAFF 1949

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH:

VICTOR R. WALKER, M.B., Ch.B., B.Sc., D.P.H. (also
Divisional M.O., Herts C.C.)

CHIEF SANITARY INSPECTOR

ARTHUR JUMP, F.S.I.A., Cert.R.San.Inst. (Meat and Foods).

ADDITIONAL SANITARY INSPECTORS:

RUSSELL F. FORRYAN, M.S.I.A., Cert.R.San.Inst. (Meat and
Foods).

PETER SANDERS, M.S.I.A., Cert.R.San.Inst. (Meat and
Foods).

CLERICAL ASSISTANTS:

MISS V. PAMMENTER

ROBERT A. HUNT (resigned November)

R. E. GRAY (as from November)

DISINFECTOR AND RODENT OPERATIVE:

L. CARR

*To the Chairman and Members of the Letchworth
Urban District Council*

Mr. Chairman, Miss Kaye and Gentlemen.

At the request of the Ministry of Health, and in accordance with the Sanitary Officers' Orders, the following report is submitted. It is the thirty-first annual report on the sanitary circumstances and vital statistics of your district.

SECTION A. STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA

The area of the district is 1,905 acres.

Inhabited Houses. There were 5,621 occupied dwellings according to the rate books at 31st December.

Population. The Registrar General estimates the civilian population for mid year 1949 to be 20,330—an increase of 380 persons.

Rateable value. The rateable value is estimated to be £160,732 and the product of a penny rate as £653.

Vital Statistics

Births

	Total	Males	Females
Live births: Legitimate	325	160	165
Illegitimate ..	12	7	5
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Totals ..	337	167	170
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>

The birth rate is 16.6, which compares with that of 16.7 for England and Wales. Last year the rate was 16.0.

	Total	Males	Females
Still births: Legitimate	10	7	3
Illegitimate	—	—	—
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Totals ...	10	7	3
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>

The still birth rate per thousand live and still births is 28.8, and per thousand civilian population 0.4; this latter rate compares with the rate of 0.39 for England and Wales.

Deaths

Total 202; Males 88, Females 114.

Twenty-six more than last year. The crude death rate is 9.9 and the corrected death rate is 10.8 per thousand civilian population compared with 11.7 for England and Wales.

Deaths from Puerperal causes. None and the maternal mortality rate is therefore nil.

Infant Mortality

		Total	Males	Females
Legitimate	...	9	3	6
Illegitimate	...	—	—	—
		<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Totals	...	9	3	6
		<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>

The rate per thousand live births is 27 and compares with the rate of 32 for England and Wales.

The causes of death were:

Ref. No.		Males	Females
6.	Tuberculosis of respiratory system	3	1
7.	Other forms of tuberculosis	3	—
9.	Influenza	—	1
14.	Cancer, stomach and duodenum	6	—
15.	Cancer, breast	—	5
16.	Cancer, all other sites	8	14
17.	Diabetes	—	—
18.	Intra-cranial vascular lesions	10	14
19.	Heart disease	26	36
20.	Other diseases of circulatory system	3	6
21.	Bronchitis	3	4
22.	Pneumonia	2	6
23.	Other respiratory diseases	2	1
24.	Ulcer, stomach or duodenum	3	—
27.	Other digestive diseases	—	4
28.	Nephritis	2	—
30.	Other maternal causes	—	—
31.	Premature birth	1	3
32.	Congenital malformations, injuries, etc.	1	2
33.	Snicide	3	1
34.	Road traffic accidents	1	1
35.	Other violent causes	—	3
36.	All other causes	11	12
		<hr/>	<hr/>
	Totals	88	114
		<hr/>	<hr/>

There was no unusual or excessive mortality during the year; there were no deaths from diphtheria, measles or whooping cough, and none from diarrhoea (under two years of age).

Tables I, II and III give comparative vital statistics for the years 1944 to 1949 inclusive. Death rates and birth rates are based on the Registrar General's estimate of the population unless otherwise stated.

It will be seen that the health of the town has been good during the year, the birth rate is similar to that for England and Wales, the death rate is lower, and so is the infant mortality rate.

TABLE I

Cancer	1944	1945	1946	1947	1948	1949
No. of deaths :						
Males	12	11	17	16	19	14
Females	20	15	15	16	15	19
Death rate per 1,000 pop.	1.4	1.3	1.6	1.6	1.7	1.6
Puerperal Causes						
No. of deaths	1	—	—	1	1	—
Death rate, 1,000 births	2.4	0.0	0.0	2.6	3.0	0.0
Pulmonary Tuberculosis						
No. of cases notified :						
Males	12	17	10	7	7	11
Females	6	4	5	5	12	7
Attack rate, 1,000 pop.	0.86	1.05	0.75	0.6	0.9	0.88
No. of deaths :						
Males	4	3	3	1	7	3
Females	1	2	3	6	2	1
Death rate per 1,000 pop.	0.28	0.25	0.3	0.3	0.4	0.2
Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis						
No. of cases notified :						
Males	4	3	1	2	2	1
Females	3	6	1	4	—	—
Attack rate, 1,000 pop.	0.33	0.45	0.1	0.3	0.1	0.04
No. of deaths :						
Males	2	—	1	—	—	3
Females	2	—	1	—	—	—
Death rate per 1,000 pop.	0.19	0.0	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.1

TABLE II

URBAN DISTRICT OF LETCHWORTH

	1921 census	1931 census	1944	1945	1946	1947	1948	1949
No. of inhabited houses December 31	2,708	3,897	5,111	5,148	5,161	5,182	5,455	5,621
Population local estimate	10,832	14,803	21,466	20,220	20,023	20,129	20,261	20,797
No. of live births	219	217	407	324	355	374	320	337
Birth rate (based on local estimate of population)	20.2	14.6	19.0	15.8	17.7	18.5	15.8	16.2
No. of infant deaths	12	9	13	6	7	7	12	9
Infant mortality	55	41.4	44.2	13.7	19.7	18.7	37	97
Maternal mortality		17.7	2.4			2.6	3.0	
No. of deaths	77	105	206	173	184	203	176	202
Death rate (local estimate of population)	7.1	7	9.6	8.5	9.1	10.1	8.6	9.7
								10.6
Population—Registrar General's estimate	10,302	14,454	20,830	19,970	19,840	19,880	19,950	20,330
Birth rate (based on Registrar General's estimate of population)	21.3	15.0	19.5	16.07	17.8	18.8	16.0	16.6
Death rate (based on Registrar General's estimate of population):								
Crude	7.5	7.2	9.8	8.6	9.2	10.2	8.8	9.9
Corrected								10.8

TABLE III

ENGLAND AND WALES

	1921	1931	1944	1945	1946	1947	1948	1949
	census	census						
Birth rate	22.4	15.8	17.6	16.1	19.1	20.5	17.9	16.7
Death rate	12.1	12.3	11.6	11.4	11.5	12.0	10.8	11.7
Infant mortality	83	66	46	46	43	41	34	32

One hundred and forty-eight smaller towns (25,000—50,000)

England and Wales

Birth rate	22.7	15.6	20.9	19.2	21.3	22.2	19.2	18.0
Death rate		11.3	12.4	12.3	11.7	11.9	10.7	11.6
Infant mortality	84	62	44	43	37	36	32	30

LETCHWORTH URBAN

Birth rate	21.3	15.0	19.5	16.07	17.8	18.8	16.0	16.6
Death rate (crude)	7.5	7.8	9.8	8.6	9.2	10.2	8.8	9.9
(corrected)								10.8
Infant mortality	55	41	44	18	19	18	37	27

SECTION B. GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA

(i) *Staff.* See list at front of Report.

For details of the work carried out by the Sanitary Inspectors reference should be made to the report of the Chief Sanitary Inspector.

(ii) *Other services.*

Treatment Centres and Clinics. The Urban Council is responsible for the treatment of scabies and a clinic continues to be held weekly, or as often as necessary, at the Health Office in Gernon Road. There is no doubt that the early treatment of cases has resulted in the incidence of this

complaint being reduced. Arrangements have been made with the Baldock Urban, Hitchin Urban and Hitchin Rural Councils for treatment of cases from their districts. Details of the work carried out during 1949 are as follows:

Number of clinics held	...	...	...	...	18
Total number of treatments	...	...	...	...	37

Scabies

Number of children treated	12	(7 being primary)
Number of adults treated: males	14	(8 „ „)
„ „ „ „ females	4	(4 „ „)
Pediculosis	...	...
Pulex infestation	...	...

Section 47 National Assistance Act 1948. No action taken during the period.

SECTION C. SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

1. (i) *Water.* There has been no material change during the year.

In response to circular 170/47, issued by the Ministry of Health, I submit the following information:

- (i) (a) The supply has been satisfactory in quality.
- (b) The supply has been satisfactory in quantity.
- (ii) The supply is sampled bacteriologically every two weeks, the samples being taken systematically at the pumping stations and from various points in the area of supply. The results are uniformly satisfactory. Chemical analyses are taken every four weeks and show little variation.
- (iii) There is no plumbo-solvent action.
- (iv) No action was necessary to deal with contamination. The whole supply is subjected to chlorination.

- (v) With the exception of five cottages at Radwell in the extreme north-east and two houses and a petrol filling station and cafe at Jacks Hill to the south-west, all the properties in the Urban District are provided with a direct piped supply of water from the Company's mains. There are no standpipes. The supplies from the private wells are kept under observation.

(ii) *Drainage and Sewerage.* The Council is still waiting sanction from the Ministry of Health to proceed with the scheme for the enlargement of the sewage works. The development of industrial and domestic premises renders the scheme of increasing urgency.

2. *Rivers and Streams.* No change.

3. (i) *Closet accommodation.* No change.

(ii) *Public cleansing.* The whole of this work is carried out under the supervision of the Surveyor. The house refuse is disposed of by "controlled tipping" on land adjacent to the Baldock Urban District Council's sewage works by arrangement with that Authority. Additional tipping facilities are urgently required.

(iii). (iv). (v) and (viii). These matters are fully dealt with in the report of the Chief Sanitary Inspector.

(vii) *Swimming baths and pools.* (a) Public. The ozone open-air swimming pool in the Norton Common continues to be well patronized, and there were 96,087 attendances during the year. A series of samples were submitted to bacteriological examination and the results were satisfactory.

The pool is under the supervision of the Surveyor, and he and his staff are again to be congratulated on maintaining a consistently high hygienic standard.

PREScribed PARTICULARS OF THE ADMINISTRATION OF THE FACTORIES ACT 1937

PART I OF THE ACT

1.— <i>Inspections</i> for purposes of provisions as to health (including inspections made by the Sanitary Inspector)		Premises		
M/c line No.	Number on Register	Inspections	Number of notices	Occupiers prosecuted
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	1	45	19	10
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	2	146	123	21
(iii) Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers' premises)	3	6	2	—
Total	—	197	144	31

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PART VIII OF THE ACT—OUTWORK (Sections 110 and 111)

Name of Work	No.	Section 110		Section 111		
		No. of outworkers in August list	No. of cases of default in sending lists	No. of instances of work in unwholesome premises	Notices served	Prosecutions
Wearing) Making, etc.	13	6	—	—	—	—
apparels) Cleaning and washing	14	—	—	—	—	—
Household linen	15	—	—	—	—	—
Lace, lace curtains and nets ...	16	20	—	—	—	—
Total	—	26	—	—	—	—

2. Cases in which *defects* were found

Particulars	M/c fine No.	Number of cases in which defects were found				No. of cases in which prosecutions were instituted
		Found	Remedied	Referred To H.M. Inspector	By H.M. Inspector	
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)
Want of cleanliness (S.1) ...	—	7	4	—	—	—
Overcrowding (S.2) ...	—	—	—	—	—	—
Unreasonable temperature (S.3) ...	—	—	—	—	—	—
Inadequate ventilation (S.4) ...	—	—	—	—	—	—
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6) ...	—	3	3	—	—	—
Sanitary conveniences (S.7)						
(a) Insufficient ...	—	1	1	—	—	—
(b) Unsuitable or defective ...	—	3	2	1	1	—
(c) Not separate for sexes ...	—	1	1	—	—	—
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to out-work) ...	—	7	7	1	—	—
Total ...	—	22	18	2	1	—

SECTION D. HOUSING

During 1949 the following premises were erected and occupied:

Council Schemes

Duplex Flats	58	
Houses	59	
Bungalows	2	
					<hr/>	119

Howard Cottage Society

Bungalows	5
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Other Persons

Houses	15
					Total	<hr/> 139 <hr/>

Inspection of Dwelling-houses during the year:

(1)	(a)	Total number of dwelling-houses inspected (for housing defects under Public Health or Housing Acts) ...	...	...	...	...	177
	(b)	Number of inspections made for the purpose					222
(2)	(a)	Number of dwelling-houses (included under sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations 1925 ...	...	...	...	12	
	(b)	Number of inspections made for the purpose				33	
(3)		Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation ...	...	...	...	nil	
(4)		Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation ...	...	...	...	31	

Action under Statutory powers during the year:

(a)	Proceedings under sections 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act 1936	nil
(b)	Proceedings under Public Health Acts:	
(i)	Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	nil
(ii)	Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices:	
(a)	By owners	nil
(b)	By Local Authority in default of owners	nil
(c)	Proceedings under Sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act 1936	nil
(d)	Proceedings under Section 12 of the Housing Act 1936. An undertaking was accepted from one owner in respect of certain outbuildings.	

Remedy of defects during the year without service of formal notice:

Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or its officers	32
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Housing Act 1936—Overcrowding:

(a)	(i) Number of dwellings overcrowded at the end of the year	15
	(ii) Number of families dwelling therein ...	19
	(iii) Number of persons dwelling therein ...	134
(b)	Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year	16
(c)	(i) Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year	20
	(ii) Number of persons concerned in such cases	102

- (d) Particulars of any cases in which dwelling-houses have again become overcrowded after the Local Authority has taken steps for the abatement of overcrowding:

(i) Number of cases	...	...	...	1
(ii) Number of families concerned	..	..	..	3
(iii) Number of persons	...	...	...	12

SECTION E. INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

This work has always received much attention in Letchworth and during 1949 every effort was made as in past years to ensure that the residents were supplied with wholesome food and drink. Special attention was paid to meat inspection, the milk supply and the manufacture of ice-cream. Details of the work will be found in the Report of the Chief Sanitary Inspector.

Clean Food Campaign

No special campaign was instituted, but a systematic inspection of food shops and food-preparing places was commenced and amenities were improved at a number of establishments.

Food Poisoning Outbreaks

Total number of outbreaks	...	...	...	...	nil
Number of cases	..	..	..	..	nil
Number of deaths	...	...	...	..	nil
Organisms or other agents responsible with number of outbreaks of each	..	...	...	...	—
Foods involved with number of outbreaks of each					—
(An alleged outbreak was thoroughly investigated with negative results)					

PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES

The bulk of notified diseases during the year was of the minor infections of childhood and the only important prevalence was a local share in the nation-wide recurrence of poliomyelitis in the late summer and early autumn.

Poliomyelitis. Six cases in all were notified and confirmed against four in 1948 and sixteen in 1947, the incidence falling in the months of September and October. Three were of adolescent age, one in the 10—15 age group, one under school age and one an adult, the cases being scattered over the urban district without any traceable direct connection. There were no resultant deaths but in at least two cases some late residual paralysis persisted. All cases were carefully recorded for the Medical Research Council survey.

Scarlet fever. The low total of seventeen cases was sporadically distributed with fairly even spacing through the year. This illness continued as of recent years to be of mild severity and relatively low infectivity, its incidence almost confined to elementary school ages.

Measles was very mild in prevalence through 1949 being an "interval year," any incidence being mainly in the first quarter. *Whooping cough* was moderately prevalent in the first and second quarters, while *chicken pox* was distributed mildly through the year.

Of other notifiable diseases *acute pneumonia* cases notified numbered nineteen, eleven occurring in the first quarter at the time of mild influenza prevalence. Erysipelas cases totalled nine, two cases of catarrhal jaundice were notified in the second quarter and one sporadic adult case of cerebro-spinal fever was confirmed in the fourth quarter. No case of food poisoning, enteric or dysenteric illness was notified, and for another year there was no local incidence of diphtheria.

Scabies and other infestations. The number of such continues small and their eradication is greatly facilitated through the possession by the authority of a well equipped cleansing station attached to the Health Department.

NEW CASES AND DEATHS DURING THE YEAR

Age Periods	New Cases				Deaths			
	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		Respiratory		Non-Respiratory	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
0—1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1—5	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
5—15	—	—	1	—	—	—	1	—
15—25	3	—	—	—	—	1	1	—
25—35	2	3	—	—	—	1	1	—
35—45	2	1	—	—	3	—	—	—
45—55	1	2	—	—	—	—	—	—
55—65	2	1	—	—	1	—	—	—
and over	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Totals	11	7	1	—	4	2	3	—
Deaths allocated by Registrar General								
after final transfers					3	1	3	—

Compared with 1948 the number of notifications is almost identical and the total deaths from all forms of tuberculosis show little change from the figure of nine for the previous year.

CONCLUSION

The local vital statistics compare favourably with those for England and Wales and continue to reflect healthy local environmental factors. While the birth rate is a fraction above that for England and Wales the death rate is markedly lower. For your district the Registrar General gives a comparability factor of 1.10, thereby assessing the local age distribution as considerably below the national average. Together with the inward migration shown by the increase in estimated population such factor accounts for the local housing problem being even more acute than nationally.

I would acknowledge much help and courtesy from your Council and its chief officials, and particularly my indebtedness to your Chief Sanitary Inspector, Mr. Arthur Jump, for his unfailing helpfulness and local knowledge. The completion of this report is again made easy by his invaluable assistance.

I am, Miss Kaye and gentlemen,

V. R. WALKER,

District M.O.H.

June 1950.

REPORT OF CHIEF SANITARY INSPECTOR

I submit my nineteenth annual report on the work carried out by the sanitary inspectors. The only change in staff occurred on the clerical side, Mr. R. A. Hunt resigning in November and being replaced by Mr. R. E. Gray.

Housing

For some years, requests for repairs to existing houses have had to be confined to essential and urgent matters, and a policy of this nature is inevitably resulting in deterioration occurring at some of the properties. There is need to conserve building labour and materials for the erection of new dwellings, but the necessity for maintaining existing properties in a reasonable state of repair must not be overlooked. Fortunately the problem is not acute in Letchworth as a large proportion of houses are owned by the Council or cottage societies, who carry out schemes of regular maintenance works.

The owner of certain outbuildings at a shop and dwelling gave an undertaking that these would not be used for human habitation. The block of cottages known as The Terrace, Willian, was demolished and the site cleared. When the housing situation is easier it will be necessary to examine some of the older properties with a view to possible demolition.

Verminous conditions continue to be minor both in number and in character, an encouraging state of affairs. Some insect pests proved troublesome, particularly the furniture beetle, which in some cases caused considerable damage to timber.

Close attention was paid to overcrowding, and to illustrate the position the following information is given. At 1st January, 1949, eleven dwellings were legally overcrowded and these contained thirteen families, the total inmates amounting to ninety-three. During the year sixteen new cases were recorded and twelve cases were abated. At 31st December there were fifteen dwellings overcrowded con-

taining nineteen families and 134 persons. The overcrowding was abated as follows:

Accommodation provided by the local authority	5	cases
Other accommodation obtained	4	..
Family reduced in number	2	..
House enlarged	1	..
	<hr/>	
	12	..

In addition to the cases of legal overcrowding there are dwellings where bad living conditions exist and no less than seventy-eight new cases were recorded during the year, but sixty-eight were relieved. On 31st December there were forty-two cases on the books and the dwellings contained ninety-two families and 281 persons.

No less than fifty-eight cases of bad living conditions were relieved by the local authority allocating accommodation, and it will be seen that the Council, through its Housing (Lettings) Sub-Committee, is making every effort to deal with the problem.

Inspection of Meat and Other Foods

The number of animals slaughtered at the regional slaughterhouse continues to be fairly constant, but on 1st October the production of bacon was recommenced at the local bacon factory and by December some 900 pigs a week were being dealt with. Meat inspection duties are always onerous, entailing much work outside normal hours, but at the present time the inspectorial staff is seriously overworked and an additional inspector is needed. The additional and specialized examination required in connection with *cysticercus bovis* has caused more work and the inspection time has been considerably increased.

Speaking generally, the methods of slaughter and of dressing are satisfactory, but improvement is still required in the transport of carcasses and offals to the butchers' shops. Satisfactory types of vehicles have been designed, and two are in use in Letchworth. Unfortunately full advantage is not being taken of the additional amenities provided.

Since 1944 records have been kept of the incidence of

mammary infection in bovines and it is encouraging to note that the tendency appears to be towards a reduction, especially in tubercle. Caution must be exercised, however, in interpreting these figures.

The butchers' shops and the wholesale meat depot were kept under close supervision and regularly inspected. Amenities at a number of shops were improved during the year.

As in the past year, careful attention was paid to the milk supply and a close liaison was maintained with the county public health staff. In assessing the results it should be remembered that unsatisfactory supplies are sampled repeatedly during advisory work. On 1st October the supervisory work in connection with the dairy farms was transferred to officers of the Ministry of Agriculture and the supervision of the pasteurizing plant transferred to officers of the County Council. It is too early to comment on these changes.

The manufacture, storage and sale of ice-cream received close attention and many samples were taken. Difficulty was experienced by one local manufacturer in producing a stable and clean product. Nine samples were submitted to chemical analysis and it will be noted that one proved to be exceedingly low in fat content.

Nuisances

Complaints of nuisance are many and varied, and a number relate to matters that cannot be dealt with under the provisions of the Public Health Acts. Some residents find it difficult to understand that the local authority has no power to deal with conditions or circumstances causing considerable annoyance.

Rodent Control

The Council became responsible for the administration of the Rats and Mice Destruction Act 1919 as from 1st April and a summary of the scheme adopted is as follows:

- (1) The Chief Sanitary Inspector be responsible for the general administration of rodent control work and

that he and the Additional Sanitary Inspector be responsible for investigation and advisory work.

- (2) That rodent-operator duties be carried out by L. Carr, General Assistant, Sanitary Department, and that 50 per cent of his time be allocated to the work.
- (3) All rodent control treatment works carried out at industrial or commercial premises to be charged for.
- (4) Rodent control treatment work at domestic properties to be carried out free, unless the infestation is due to neglect on the part of the occupier.

At the time of the transfer of powers a number of existing contracts were taken over from the county authority. These provided for rodent control treatment to be carried out at certain industrial premises. The necessary treatment was carried out and the contracts completed, but no new contracts have been entered into and in future the Council will carry out control work at industrial property only on a day-to-day cost basis.

During the year the routine testing and examination of the Council's sewers as required by the Ministry was carried out, as was the necessary treatment. The infestation was minor in character and not serious. There are no large reservoir-type infestations in the district and much of the trouble is of a sporadic nature.

Infectious Disease

Normal investigations were carried out as required. Terminal disinfection is still undertaken, but in accordance with circumstances and not as a matter of routine.

Factories and Workplaces

The annual return to the Ministry of Labour and National Service gives the statistical records for the year.

The industrial area of the town causes the department work in many directions: one is the control of trades wastes, and in this connection the work involved a great deal of time; another is the certification of the means of escape in case of fire. Twenty-four visits were also paid to workplaces during the year.

STATISTICAL RECORDS

1st January—31st December, 1949

GENERAL (under Public Health and Housing Acts):

(a) *Visits and Inspections*

Houses inspected under Public Health Acts ...	...	165
Houses reinspected under Public Health Acts ...	...	24
Houses inspected under Housing Acts ...	...	12
Housing reinspected under Housing Acts ...	...	21
Houses visited re defective dustbins ...	...	7
Housing survey: Form A primary ...	...	—
.. .. A secondary ...	...	294
.. .. B primary ...	...	61
.. .. B secondary ...	...	3
Special survey—number of houses visited ...	...	780
Visits re number of occupants ...	...	64
Movable dwellings inspected ...	...	43
Movable dwelling sites inspected ...	...	26
Nuisances investigated ...	...	177
Systematic investigations of district ...	...	78
Investigations re water supply ...	...	1
.. re watercourses and ditches ...	...	44
.. re sewers ...	...	30
.. re industrial effluvia ...	...	18
.. re pigeons ...	...	16
.. re poultry keeping ...	...	21
Visits and inspections of entertaining premises ...	...	2
.. .. of swimming baths ...	...	31
.. .. of waterworks ...	...	3
Smoke observations ...	...	4
Drains—smoke tested ...	...	15
Drains—water tested ...	...	24
Drains—colour tested ...	...	6
Visits to works outstanding and in progress ...	...	665
Visits to stables ...	...	8
Visits to piggeries ...	...	48
Visits to refuse tips ...	...	16
Visits re rodent infestation ...	...	945

Visits to public conveniences	10
Miscellaneous visits	52
Samples of effluent submitted for analysis	1
Samples of water submitted for analysis	1
Building licensing	82
Food control	27
Food waste collection and salvage	224

(b) *Nuisances Abated and Repair Work carried out*

Choked drains cleared and put into proper order ...	62
Drains repaired or relaid	30
Inspection chambers built or repaired	20
Intercepting traps fixed or repaired	3
W.C. pans repaired or renewed	13
W.C. flushing cisterns repaired or renewed	9
W.C.s cleansed	11
Urinals repaired or renewed	1
Soil pipes repaired or renewed	5
Vent pipes repaired or renewed	6
Fresh-air inlets repaired or renewed	5
Gullies repaired or renewed	20
Eaves, guttering and rainwater pipes repaired or renewed	16
Sinks provided or renewed	12
Lavatory basins provided or renewed	14
Baths provided or renewed	6
Waste pipes repaired or renewed	20
Pail closets abolished	—
Pail closets repaired	—
Chemical closets repaired or renewed	—
Septic tanks built or repaired	—
Cesspools repaired	—
Cesspools emptied and cleansed	3
Cesspools abolished	4
Wells repaired	—
Water service pipes and fittings repaired or renewed	26
Hot water systems provided or repaired	24
Dustbins provided	7
Yard paving provided or repaired	9

Roofs repaired or renewed	...	...	...	6
Chimney stacks repaired or rebuilt	...	...	...	3
External rendering repaired or renewed	...	...	...	11
Brickwork repaired	...	...	...	5
Damp-proof courses renewed or provided	...	...	...	2
Doors and door frames repaired or renewed	...	...	...	17
Windows and frames repaired or renewed	...	...	...	20
Lighting and ventilation improved	...	...	...	7
Fireplaces and ranges repaired or renewed	...	...	...	31
Coppers provided or repaired	...	...	...	3
Floors repaired or renewed	...	...	...	28
Staircases repaired	...	...	...	1
Ceilings and plaster repaired	...	...	...	38
Food stores provided	...	...	...	2
Rooms cleansed	...	...	...	68
Dairies cleansed	...	...	...	13
Cowsheds cleansed	...	...	...	13
Cowsheds reconditioned	...	...	...	2
Bakehouses cleansed	...	...	...	3
Slaughterhouses cleansed	...	...	...	2
Lairages and stables cleansed	...	...	...	2
Accumulations removed	...	...	...	26
Premises and sheds ratproofed	...	...	...	3
Rodent extermination—gassing	...	...	...	24
“ “ —other methods	...	...	...	360
Ditches cleansed	...	...	...	2
Ponds cleansed	...	...	...	0
Ponds treated for mosquitoes	...	...	...	1

(c) *Infestations*

	Council Houses	Other Houses	Visits
Bugs	7	9	39
Fleas	1	—	2
Lice	—	—	1
Beetles and cockroaches	1	56	131
Flies	3	8	19
Mosquitoes	—	3	7
Other pests	197	167	610

SUPERVISION OF FOOD SUPPLIES

(a) *Visits and Inspections*

To abattoir	...	731	Food preparing		
Meat depot	...	52	places	...	43
Butchers' shops	...	200	Dairies	...	151
Butchers' vans	...	10	Dairy vehicles	...	66
Fish shops	...	38	Cowsheds	...	44
Other food shops		189	Ice-cream vendors		194
Cafes	...	45	Hawkers of other		
Bakehouses	...	31	foods	...	25

(b) *Carcasses examined*

(1) At abattoir:

Cows	...	1,030	Calves	...	1,101
Heifers	...	846	Sheep	...	5,805
Bulls	...	95	Pigs	...	13,519
Bullocks	...	1,135	Goats	...	20

(2) At shops, other premises and vans:

Beef Qs.:			Calves	...	72
(i) English	...	264	Sheep	...	189
(ii) Imported	...	78	Pigs	...	312
			Poultry	...	300

(c) *Condemned as unfit for human food*

(1) At abattoir:

32 cow carcasses	1 side English beef
20 other beasts' carcasses	27 hindquarters English
82 forequarters English	beef
beef	2,310lb. English beef

(c) *Condemned as unfit for human food*—(cont.)

347	beasts' heads	18	plucks
1,828	lungs	3	lungs
119	hearts	4	livers
756	livers	39	kidneys
342	kidneys	17	spleens
427	mesenteries	16	mesenteries
220	spleens	91	other organs
1,658	other organs	9	sheep carcasses
70	pig carcasses	2	forequarters English mutton
1	side English pork	1	hindquarter English mutton
26	forequarters English pork	62lb.	English mutton
16	hindquarters English pork	19	sheep heads
948lb.	English pork	54	plucks
510	pigs' heads	91	lungs
349	plucks	184	livers
1,941	lungs	18	kidneys
479	livers	7	mesenteries
548	kidneys	8	spleens
884	mesenteries	145	other organs
391	spleens	—	goat carcasses
959	other organs	--	heads
17	calf carcasses	—	plucks
8lb.	English veal	—	other organs
14	calf heads		Total weight 124,926lb.

(2) At wholesale depot, shops and vans:

202lb. English beef	1 beast's liver
24lb. imported beef	2,000lb. chitterlings
15lb. English pork	7 beasts' tripes

(c) *Condemned as unfit for human food—(cont.)*

106lb. bacon	509lb. whalemeat
11lb. sausages	14 cans whalemeat
165 cans beef	34 English eggs
11 cans pork	809 imported eggs
14 cans mutton	3 cans dried egg
10 cans brawn	240lb. flour
6 cans rabbits	30lb. soya flour
12 fowls	5 cans pudding
2 cans tongue	60lb. jam
78 cans meat products	42lb. preserves
311 cans vegetables	7 jars pickles
223 cans fruit	3 jars horseradish sauce
241 cans fish	2 jars mint sauce
294lb. cod	607 cans condensed milk
168lb. fish fillets	168lb. cooking fat
210lb. mixed fish	45lb. cheese
252lb. haddock	19 packets cheese
	1 can cheese

(d) *Slaughter of animals*

Regular notices of slaughter received ...	1
Notices of occasional or emergency slaughter received	61

CARCASSES INSPECTED AND CONDEMNED (EXCLUDING SHOPS)

	Cattle excluding cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and lambs	Pigs	Goats
No. killed	2076	1030	1101	5805	13519	20
No. inspected	2076	1030	1101	5805	13519	20

All Diseases except Tuberculosis

(1) Whole carcasses condemned ...	7	5	10	9	50	
(2) Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned ...	450	303	8	298	1354	
(3) Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than tuberculosis ...	22.0	29.9	1.5	3.7	10.3	

Tuberculosis only

(1) Whole carcasses condemned ...	13	27	7		20	
(2) Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned ...	218	314			489	
(3) Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuberculosis ...	11.1	33.1	0.6		3.7	

Cow udder infection. As during previous years a careful examination was made of the udders of all cows slaughtered, and the results are as follows:

	Six Years 1944-49	1949
Number of cows slaughtered ...	7502	1030
Tubercular type lesions found in udder and/or supramammary lymphatic glands ...	343 = 4.5%	24 = 2.3%
Other udder infection ...	1585 = 21.1%	225 = 21.8%
<i>Total</i> udder infection ...	1928 = 25.6%	249 = 24.1%
Tubercular cows having mammary lesions ...	13.6% (343 in 2516 cases)	10.4% (24 in 231 cases)
Applications for licences to slaughter animals ...		19
Number of licences granted to slaughtermen ...		19
Amount of fees received ...		£1 0s.

(e) *Milk supply*

Seven farms are registered, two licensed for the production of Tuberculin Tested milk, and two for the production of Accredited milk. There are seven distributors of milk, five having premises within the urban district. Seven are licensed to retail Tuberculin Tested milk; one retailer is licensed to pasteurize and sell pasteurized milk. Licensing fees amounted to £3 6s.

Summary of results of milk samples taken:

					Tuberculin Tested milk	Accredited milk
Number taken	...	...	...	...	12	6
Methylene blue test	satisfied	...	...	...	9	2
"	"	"	failed	...	3	4
B. Coli.	Absent in 1/100 ml.	...	...	...	1	1
	Present	...	...	...	1	—

					Tuberculin Tested (Pasteurized) milk	Pasteurized milk	Ordinary milk
Number taken	...	...	...	2	7	55	
Methylene blue test—							
Number submitted	...	...	...	2	7	50	
Satisfied	...	...	...	2	6	46	
Failed	...	...	...	—	1	4	
B. Coli—number submitted	...	...	...	—	—	4	
Absent in 1/100 ml.	...	...	...	—	—	4	
Present	...	...	...	—	—	—
Phosphatase Test—							
Number submitted	...	...	...	2	7	46	
Passed	...	...	...	2	7	45	
Failed	...	...	...	—	—	1	

Milk Acidity Tests

Number carried out at office	...	...	...	...	2
Satisfactory	...	...	...	...	—
Unsatisfactory	...	...	...	...	2

Special Samples

None taken.

The Milk (Ministry of Food) Regulations 55 G

The Milk (Special Designations) Regulations

Fifty samples were taken during the year for and on behalf of the County Council. In addition seven samples were submitted for biological examination.

Ice-cream

Methylene Blue Test

Number submitted	...	57	
Classified as Grade I	...	30	Satisfactory
Classified as Grade II	...	16	
Classified as Grade III	...	6	Unsatisfactory
Classified as Grade IV	...	5	

B. Coli examination—

Number submitted	...	22
Absent in 1/10 gm.	...	17
Present in 1/10gm.	...	5

Bacterial count—

Number submitted	...	10
Highest count	...	1,464,000 per gm.
Lowest count	...	120 per gm.
Average count	...	200,942 per gm.

Chemical examination—

Number submitted	...	10
Sample No.		% Fat W/W
1/1		10.08
1		4.88
2		3.91
3		7.88
4		9.45
5		2.54
6		5.61
7		1.62
8		9.68
9		5.36

Ingredient samples—

Number submitted	...	none
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(f) *Adulteration*

The County Council is the Food and Drugs Authority for this area, the officer being G. F. Hart, Esq., and all complaints of adulterated food are referred to him. Several cases were dealt with during the year.

INFECTIOUS DISEASE

(a) *Visits and Inspections*

General	...	...	...	...	...	238
Re Health Clinic cases	...	...	...	...	...	47
Specimens taken to Laboratory	...	...	...	...	...	38
Children's and nursing homes	...	...	...	...	...	14
Schools	...	...	...	...	...	38
Nurseries	...	...	...	...	...	6
Number of schools notices sent	...	...	...	...	...	15

(b) *Disinfection*

General cases	...	...	...	...	57	rooms
Tuberculosis cases	...	...	...	...	46	
Schoolrooms	...	...	...	...	—
Hospital Wards	...	...	...	...	1	
Vehicles	...	...	...	...	1	
Library books	...	...	...	...	31	
Disinfestation	...	...	...	...	18	
<i>Bedding stoved</i>						
Beds	...	...	...	...	3	
Mattresses	...	...	...	...	4	
Pillows	...	...	...	...	5	
Blankets	...	...	...	...	10	
Quilts	...	...	...	...	1	
Sheets	...	...	...	...	2	
Bolsters	...	...	...	...	2	
Rugs	...	...	...	...	1	
General clothing	...	...	...	...	1	
<i>Bedding destroyed</i>						
Mattresses	...	...	...	...	1	
Pillows	...	...	...	...	—
Blankets	...	...	...	...	—

Disposal of the Dead

National Assistance Act, Section 50

No. of cases	...	...	...	...	1
No. of visits	...	...	...	...	14

FACTORIES AND WORKPLACES

	No. on Register	Inspections	Notices
Mechanical factories	152	125	21
Non-mechanical factories	15	19	10
Workplaces	43	24	1
Outworkers	13	10	—

Defects found and remedied

	Found	Remedied
Want of cleanliness	7	4
Want of ventilation	—	—
Want of drainage of floors	3	3
Other nuisances	14	12
Sanitary accommodation		
Insufficient	1	1
Unsuitable or defective	3	2
Not separate for sexes	1	1
Other offences	7	7
Matters referred to H.M. Inspector of Factories	2	—

PETROLEUM ACTS

Visits and inspections	...	...	41
Number of contraventions found	...	...	4
Number of contraventions remedied	...	...	5
Number of licences granted—			
(a) Petroleum spirit and products	...	...	39
(b) Carbide of calcium	...	...	6

Amount of fees received, £28.10 —

SHOPS ACTS

Number of shops on Register	203
Visits and inspections	102
Number of contraventions found	28
Number of contraventions remedied	15

GAME LICENCES

Visits and inspections	2
Number of licences granted	2
Amount of fees received, 10/—	

HAIRDRESSERS AND BARBERS—BY-LAWS

Number of visits and inspections	21
Number of contraventions found	—
Number of contraventions remedied	—

OFFICES

Number of visits and inspections	8
Number of contraventions found	1
Number of contraventions remedied	1

The varied nature and the scope of the work carried out during the year is illustrated by the foregoing records and I wish to thank all members of the staff for their help and co-operation.

ARTHUR JUMP,
Chief Sanitary Inspector.

Health Office,
Gernon Road,
Letchworth.
February 1950.

